

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 OPIC-06 /140 W
-----031815 121359Z /75

P R 121304Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3063
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY BERN

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DOE PLS PASS TO BERGOLD/VANDERRY/N/LEECH, IA AND TO
BEATTIE/CORCORAN, CS.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL SOLAR WORK GROUP,
JUNE 5-9, 1978

REF: STATE 133971

1. TASK FORCE COMPOSED APPROXIMATELY AS INDICATED IN
REFTEL VISITED PARIS DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 5 TO
EVALUATE FRENCH SOLAR ENERGY STATUS, AS WELL AS PLANS
AND VIEWS ON SOLAR ENERGY FUTURE INCLUDING POTENTIAL
FOR COMMERCIALIZATION AND COOPERATION WITH US.
NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS WERE ARRANGED IN PARALLEL AND
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SERIES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
INTERESTS. THE FORMER INCLUDED THE COMMISSARIAT OF
ENERGIES SOLAR (COMES), CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS), ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE (EDF),
AND COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE (CEA). THE
LATTER INCLUDED NINE COMPANIES (ALSTHOM, ST. GOBAIN,
ELF, BERTIN, RENAULT, RTC, MOTOROLA, SEP, SIDEM)

CONSIDERED MOST HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THIS AREA, A FEW OF WHICH WERE SEEN MORE THAN ONCE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2. ALL CONTACTS WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE AND WILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND GIVE THEIR OPINIONS AND JUDGMENTS QUITE FREELY. ALTHOUGH THE SOLAR ENERGY BUDGET IN FRANCE IS ABOUT A FACTOR OF TEN LESS THAN IN THE US, FRANCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FAR BEHIND THE US IN THE SOLAR ENERGY FIELD.

3. CURRENT STATUS IN FRANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. FOR SPACE HEATING AND WATER HEATING FRENCH PRODUCTION OF SOLAR COLLECTORS IS ABOUT ONE MILLION SQUARE FEET IN 1978. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE THREE MILLION SQUARE FEET IN 1979 OF WHICH ABOUT HALF IS TO BE EXPORTED. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A PROGRAM OF SUBSIDIES (1,000 FF PER UNIT) TO EQUIP PRIVATE HOMES WITH SOLAR HOT WATER.

B. THE PHOTOVOLTAIC CELL PRODUCTION WAS REPORTED BY RTC TO BE ABOUT 200 KW IN 1978 AND EXPECTED TO DOUBLE NEXT YEAR.

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3064

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BERN

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C. SEVERAL THERMOELECTRICAL PROGRAMS ARE UNDERWAY INCLUDING: THE 2 MW THEMIS PROJECT; A PROJECT IN CORSICA EXPECTED TO USE HARDWARE DEVELOPED BY THE BERTIN CO.; AND THE THEK AND PERICLES PROJECTS NEAR MARSEILLES.

4. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A VAST NEED EXISTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY, MUCH OF IT IN AFRICA AND OTHER LDC'S. ESSENTIALLY NO MARKET SURVEYS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT, DUE LARGELY TO THE CONSIDERATION THAT TRUE DEMAND DEPENDS PRIMARILY ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. FURTHERMORE, COST INFORMATION VARIES CONSIDERABLY
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AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO EFFORTS TO ESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL MARKET AS A FUNCTION OF COST BRACKETS. ONE COMPANY IS WORKING ON SPACE HEATING FROM WIND ENERGY, SUITABLE FOR NORTHERN LATITUDES AND SEES A LARGE MARKET IN MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

5. COOPERATION WITH US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND US INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES WAS WELCOMED BY ALL PERSONS CONTACTED IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS LITTLE APPARENT FEAR OF COMPETITIVE ISSUES AND RELATED PROBLEMS. A NUMBER OF THESE FRENCH COMPANIES HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH US FIRMS. THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WHICH THEY BELIEVE COULD RESULT IN POOLING OF STRENGTHS, REDUCTION OF DUPLICATIVE EFFORTS AND ACCELERATION OF BENEFITS POTENTIALLY DERIVED FROM SOLAR ENERGY.

6. DETAILED DRAFT REPORTS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ON ALL MEETINGS WHICH TOOK PLACE. CORRELATION AND CLARIFICATION OF EXTENSIVE INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE VARIOUS TEAM PARTICIPANTS IS NECESSARY BEFORE SUBMITTAL OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON ALL ABOVE DISCUSSIONS. A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THESE SHOULD REACH CS/DOE ON OR ABOUT 19 JUNE.
HARTMAN

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